

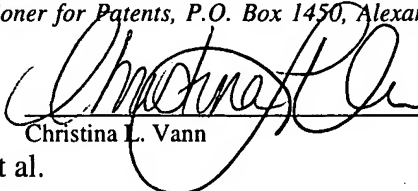


PATENT

Date of Notice  
of Allowance : June 2, 2004

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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Christina L. Vann

Applicant : Robert A. Hawley, et al.  
Application No. : 10/603,362  
Filed : June 25, 2003  
Title : VARIABLE RATE MODULATOR  
Grp./Div. : 2817  
Examiner : Joseph Chang  
Docket No. : 50580/RRT/B600

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

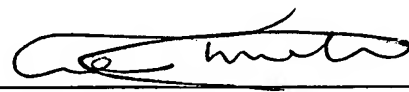
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June 22, 2004

Commissioner:

The Applicant believes the Examiner's stated reasons for allowance are unnecessary. The record as a whole makes clear the reasons for allowance and therefore a statement by the Examiner is not necessary or warranted. While the Applicant agrees that the claims are allowable, the Applicant does not acquiesce in the stated reasons for allowance, nor that patentability requires each stated feature as expressed by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,  
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By   
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626/795-9900

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